

## Att6\_PG2\_SRT\_ProgPref\_1of1

### Attachment 6: Program Preferences

The proposed Planning process will address the following IRWM program preferences and statewide priorities:

- **The Plan will promote regional projects and programs** – This will be accomplished in many ways, but particularly through the workshops that bring together stakeholders and water managers throughout the region to explore collaborative programs and policies to be included in the final IRWM Plan. Additionally, it is the intent of this Plan to target and bring together the various federal, state and private land managers in the region to promote better integration and collaboration on projects.
- **The Plan will effectively integrate water management programs and projects within the Southern Sierra Region**, a DWR-recognized sub-region of the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region and the San Joaquin River Hydrologic Region identified in the California Water Plan. This will be accomplished through the collaborative activities and data-sharing tools developed by the Coordinating Committee, the RWMG, and the targeted workshops. In addition, targeted outreach to federal land managers will be key to integrating programs and projects in the region.
- **The Plan will effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions.** RWMG meetings and workshops will be facilitated in order to build consensus around creative solutions to water-related conflicts. Facilitation during Plan development will help to cultivate and create implementation projects which address conflicts such as water quality and quantity both from within the region, among its stakeholders and residents, and between the region's residents and downstream user groups and stakeholders from outside the region. One area where this will be specifically useful is in the Tule Indian Reservation's water use conflicts with downstream users and in areas, such as Three Rivers, where well drilling in riparian zones has created litigation and conflict.
- **The Plan will contribute to attainment of one or more of the objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.** The South Sierra region includes the main stem San Joaquin River watershed and will contribute to three of the four objectives stated in the CALFED Record of Decision for this part of the region, and the region as a whole:
  - **“Provide good water quality for all beneficial uses.”**

As the upper watershed, the Plan will address water quality issues such as septic systems, local treatment facilities, and heavily used recreation areas. In addition, it will address forest and range fire impact mitigation measures.
  - **“Improve and increase aquatic and terrestrial habitats and improve ecological functions in the Bay-Delta to support**



**sustainable populations of diverse and valuable plant and animal species.”**

Similar to the above, the Plan will develop projects in the upper watershed to help maintain and/or restore the ecosystem services provided to downstream areas such as the Delta. This includes maintaining and improving water quality and acceptable water temperatures.

- **“Reduce the mismatch between Bay-Delta water supplies and current and projected beneficial uses dependent on the Bay-Delta system.”**

The Southern Sierra region is the source of water not only for part of the Bay-Delta system, but also for areas of Tulare, Kings, and Kern County that rely on water exported from the Delta. The Plan will help to increase the reliability of downstream water supply by increasing the functioning of the upper watershed’s capacity to for short term storage (decreasing flood peaks and increasing later season flows).

- **The Plan will address critical water supply or water quality needs of disadvantaged communities within the region.** The Southern Sierra region encompasses many disadvantaged communities and the proposed Plan will address their needs. Through the Plan development process, a DAC outreach plan will be developed that will identify and incorporate DAC needs in the region. The Planning firm will then work with the DAC’s to identify and incorporate water supply and water quality projects into the Plan.
- **The Plan will effectively integrate water management with land use planning.** The information gained from collaboration and partnership with the Department of Water Resources on hydrological capacity will allow land management decisions within the Region to be based on an assessment of availability of water resources.
- **The Plan will promote flood control projects that provide multiple benefits,** including, but not limited to, water quality improvements, ecosystem restoration and protection, reduction of instream erosion and sedimentation, and groundwater recharge. These projects will be developed as part of the planning process, particularly in regional workshops addressing integrated strategies for flood control.
- **The Plan will address the statewide priority of Drought Preparedness.** The Plan will specifically address meadow restoration projects and other fuel reduction projects that can contribute to sustainable water supply during climate-change related water shortages. In addition, through recommendations regarding fuel management to reduce the incidence of catastrophic wildfires in the region, the Plan will help promote more effective water percolation and groundwater storage to help ease drought conditions.



- **The Plan will address the statewide priority to “Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently” by making recommendations on landscaping policies.** It is estimated that 50-60% of water use in subdivisions and rural domestic uses goes to landscaping and irrigation. Water use efficiency and water conservation in the Region can help meet future water demands, increase water supply reliability and provide more adaptability to climate change.
- **The Plan will support the statewide priority of developing water management actions that will address the key issue of adaptation to climate change, including more efficient use and reuse of water supplies.** In addition the promotion of meadow restoration and groundwater recharge projects will reduce energy consumption of water systems to store and treat water.
- **The Plan will address the statewide priority of Expanding Environmental Stewardship** through comprehensive regional policies and projects to improve watershed, floodplain and instream ecological functions. One example is meadow restoration, which provides storage and release of cold water to downstream water bodies that require cold water for fisheries.
- **The Plan will address the statewide priority of Promoting Integrated Flood Management to provide multiple benefits.** This issue will be addressed in workshops with the goal of developing comprehensive regional policies to improve watershed floodplains and to sustain water and flood management ecosystems.
- **The Plan will address the statewide priority of Protecting Surface Water and Groundwater Quality** by addressing potential threats to water quality and developing safeguards and protective mechanisms. One specific area that will be addressed is the contamination of surface water through recreational activities and its impacts on downstream users.
- **The Plan will address the statewide priority of Improving Tribal Water and Natural Resources** by ensuring inclusion, consultation, collaboration, and access to funding of regional tribal entities.
- **The Plan will address the statewide priority of Ensuring Equitable Distribution of Benefits** by increasing the participation of small and disadvantaged communities in the IRWM process and addressing critical water supply and/or water quality needs of California Native American Tribes within the region.